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The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper, Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper and Downtown News

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FILMING OF NEW MOVIE LEAVES IRATE SLOPERS IN

CRUISE CONTROL

Cars towed for Tom's 'War of the Worlds'



Cars parked along Carroll Street and Seventh Avenue in Park Slope are towed away Monday night.

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Invasers entered Park Slope this week, vaporizing the one thing neighbors might have wiped each other out fighting over anyway — parking spots. Signs posted on trees and lampposts from President to Third streets, between Prospect Park West and Seventh Avenue, warned residents and visitors that the streets would be cleared at various intervals throughout the Thanksgiving weekend and into Monday and Tuesday to shoot the Steven Spielberg-directed remake of H.G. Wells' Martian invasion story, "War of the Worlds."

The film stars Tom Cruise. Smaller streets were closed off for longer periods, like Fiske Place and Polhemus Place, so equipment vans could park for a more time-consuming scene shot on Carroll Street wherein characters in the movie who survived the alien takeover take refuge in one of the Slope's precious brownstones.

But star-struck as some Park Slopers were to have Stephen Spielberg using their streets to shoot scenes, police at the 78th Precinct were inundated with calls complaining about the sudden lack of parking.

While teamsters and their trucks swept into the neighborhood engulfing the streets with white trailers and inch-thick electrical wires that snaked along the sidewalks, some local taxpayers saw their own apocalypse.

"It's out of our control," said Police Officer Joseph Newell. "It's the city that issues the permits. We're getting a lot of complaints about that though."

"They took up one whole side of [Prospect Park West]," he said. "We get a daily sheet for that day

where they're going to shoot. They could be shooting on Ninth Street but they could have a permit for the area of Sixth to 13th streets just to park their trucks."

Indeed, by Monday afternoon, orange cones had been placed beside all the parked vehicles on a couple of blocks marking where spaces would be held when cars moved, or were towed, by 8 o'clock that night. And towed they were.

A spokeswoman for the Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting, Julianne Cho, said advance notice is always given, even when permits are only pending to be issued in an area.

"Production companies give advance notification of their work in neighborhoods via signage, with the message that they will require temporary parking for their production vehicles on city streets — public parking — which is paid for and shared by all New Yorkers, including those working in the production industry," Cho told The Brooklyn Papers.

She said such shoots help employ more than 100,000 New Yorkers each year, contribute \$5 billion to the local economy annually and keep the 4,000 production businesses in the city thriving. Cho said "War of the Worlds" alone provided jobs for 80 teamsters, 200 New York crew members and "hundreds of New York extras."

As cities like Montreal and Toronto have become increasingly more cost effective to U.S. production companies wanting to emulate New York without the hassle, the city has stepped up efforts to appeal to filmmakers by offering incentives such as free permits and tax breaks.

And a bill introduced by Park Slope-Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky on Wednesday pro-

See **TOWED** on page 15



Actor Tom Cruise stands on car-less corner in Park Slope during filming of "War of the Worlds" Tuesday.

A DOG'S LIFE

Shelter charged with abuses

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

State Attorney General Elliott Spitzer has launched an investigation into the possible misuse of funds by the director and founders of the 11-year-old pet rescue organization Hearts and Homes.

The inquest comes in response to a complaint by a former volunteer for the Brooklyn-based organization, which until a few months ago existed largely on the streets and in the apartments of its founders.

Laurie Bleier, a major fundraiser for the group over the past three years, hijacked the organization's Web site, of which she was in charge, when she discovered that a new shelter space — for which she claims to have raised at least \$29,000 over the past year — was nowhere near opening despite being rented since June.

Spreading word of alleged corruption via e-mail, telephone and Internet postings, she's been enlisting the help of former Hearts and Homes volunteers and donors.

Bleier contacted the attorney general's office in early November. A spokesman for Spitzer this week confirmed that the group was being



A dog in one of the new cages at the Hearts and Homes shelter at 908 McDonald Ave. in Kensington.

investigated.

Bleier said she had paid the rent deposit for the shelter space out of her own pocket, and had secured two months of free rent, while paying August's rent. She was also paying for the no-kill shelter's Web site and soliciting donations via the Internet service PayPal, she said.

Based on records of accounts shown to The Brooklyn Papers that included PayPal activity logs, a \$10,000 donation from a 9-11 widow, See **HEARTS AND HOMES** on page 16

Crowd to Ratner big: 'Blight' back at ya

Jeers rain down as Nets arena site is called a wasteland

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

As if opponents of Forest City Ratner's "Atlantic Yards" plan didn't already have enough reasons to dislike him, a top official of the development company has taken to labeling as "blighted"

the six square blocks of Prospect Heights that the project would subsume.

At the second public meeting in two weeks, Forest City Ratner Executive Vice President James Stuckey said he expected the state to determine land in the footprint of the Atlantic Yards site to be "blighted," a move that would allow his company to forcibly purchase the property from individual owners for a price determined by the state.

And with each mention of the

word, Stuckey was greeted by a chorus of jeers.

The development company's principal owner, Bruce Ratner, proposes to build a \$2.5 billion complex on property bounded by Flatbush, Atlantic and Vanderbilt avenues and Dean Street — including Pacific Street — that would include a basketball arena for his New Jersey Nets and 17 buildings including four office skyscrapers and 13 apartment and commercial buildings.

See **ARENA BLIGHT** on page 3



Forest City Ratner Executive Vice President Jim Stuckey.

Beep plans scribe fest

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

A consortium of writers, publishers and agents with ties to Brooklyn are crafting a full-fledged literary festival they hope will rival those in Los Angeles, Miami and Manhattan.

Since last summer, the Brooklyn Literary

Council has been quietly organizing both a component to next summer's annual Best of Brooklyn event and, if all goes well, a rousing stand-alone festival slated for spring 2006.

As a prologue, hundreds of scribes and publishers will gather on Monday at Borough Hall, where Markowitz will promote the planned events.

The effort is spearheaded by book publisher See **SCRIBES** on page 16



Better not pout!

Children are greeted by Santa Claus during lighting of Christmas tree at Belarusian Church on Bond Street and Atlantic Avenue on Wednesday.

Cop dies after rooftop chase

Fiance, a fellow cop, recalls P.O. William Rivera

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

As Rebecca Rodriguez recalled the five years of love, romance and professional respect she'd shared with her fiance, Police Officer William Rivera, who she met "on the job" as a fellow cop at the 78th Precinct, she had his laundry going in another room.

"I'm in a daze," she told The Brooklyn Papers. "I don't know what to do. All my life was with him."

Everything I did was for him. I was his leg, his arm. Sometimes I'm walking down the street, and I don't know where I'm at. It's a shock to me."

The highly decorated Rivera, 35, died last Wednesday from a blood clot. He had been recuperating from a line-of-duty injury that left him with two shattered legs and a severely injured back.

Rivera was a plainclothes officer who worked the overnight shift in the anti-crime unit.

While the entire precinct took off last Saturday to mourn the beloved officer at his funeral in Queens — officers from other precincts filled in

See **RIVERA** on page 16

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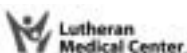


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On the wall

Samarra Khaja, of Bedford-Stuyvesant, stands before her winning mural design, newly installed at Lowe's on Second Avenue in Gowanus. Khaja won a borough-wide contest for a Brooklyn-themed look for the exterior of the home improvement superstore, which opened last April.

Cops: Cabby hit & ran

By Jess Wislowski

The Brooklyn Papers

A 27-year-old man from Windsor Terrace was struck by a yellow cab while crossing the street at Lincoln Place between Sixth and Seventh avenues on Nov. 21 at 2:19 am.

The victim, who was rushed to New York Methodist Hospital, was struck by a taxi of which neither he nor a female witness managed to get the medallion number. He had pain in his arm and leg, and told police that the driver did not even stop the vehicle to see if he was OK.

He said the car fled west-bound on Lincoln Place.

Dining out

Employees of New York Methodist, on Sixth Street at Seventh Avenue, told police they witnessed a man robbing a storage trailer of disposable hospital dinnware on Nov. 18 at 7:30 pm.

When the officer responded, he saw a 29-year-old man unloading various boxes of cups, forks, seal wrap, aluminum foil, paper napkins, trash bags and other supplies by throwing them over a 10-foot wall into a rolling dolly. When the officer approached him, the man told him, "I work here," and showed the arresting officer where the items had come from.

POLICE BLOTTER

House robbed

A 38-year-old Gowanus man told police that someone entered his apartment and robbed him of \$4,000 in property sometime between 8:30 am and 12:30 pm on Nov. 22.

Upon arriving home on Third Avenue between 12th and 13th streets, the door appeared to have been pried open with an unknown object.

A 15-year-old neighbor said she'd heard a noise at 11:30 am, but when she called out no one responded. The girl looked up the stairs and said she saw someone with black pants by the door, but she went back down to her apartment.

Among the items reported stolen was \$1,000 in cash, \$600 worth in neck chains, \$600 in bracelets, and an \$800 woman's necklace.

Door jammed

A 30-year-old Park Slope woman reported that on Nov. 22 between 11:30 am and 4 pm someone entered her Seventh Avenue residence by forcing open the door, causing damage to the door and frame.

Her landlord discovered the damage at the apartment between Berkeley Place and

Union Street at 4 pm that day and reported it to police.

Neighbors who said they were home all day said they did not hear anything, but the woman was robbed of a digital camera worth \$300, a diamond pendant worth \$1,000, a \$5,000 white-gold ring with a diamond solitaire, a watch, a ring, and a handheld computer.

Burg times 2

Two burglaries left tenants of an apartment building on Second Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues out nearly \$5,000 in property.

One woman, 23, who lives on the second floor of the building, reported at 6:40 pm on Nov. 22 that the robbery started at 9:30 am, and the perp appeared to have entered at the front of the building, causing damage to her lock and removing property including three laptops, a PDA, a pearl necklace and a gold ring.

The other tenant, a 27-year-old man on the third floor, said he was robbed the same day between 8:10 am and 6 pm.

He also had a laptop stolen. The locks to the front of the building were damaged as a result of the break-ins, appearing to have been tampered with, resulting in other residents not being able to get into the building.

See **POLICE** on page 5

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Lots of shouting, little info, at CB2 Atlantic Yards meet

By Jess Wisloski
 The Brooklyn Papers

A presentation of developer Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards plan hosted by community boards 2, 6 and 8 turned into a shouting match Monday night.

Members of the 800-person audience, both in favor of and opposed to the development, yelled across the auditorium at New York City College of Technology trying to overpower both Forest City Ratner Executive Vice President James Stuckey, and the moderator, CB6 district manager Craig Hammerman.

Before the meeting even began, it was obvious there was going to be trouble. Develop-Don't Destroy Brooklyn, one of the groups spearheading opposition to Ratner's plan for a basketball arena in Prospect Heights, joined state Sen. Velman Montgomery to present an alternative plan, which they are calling the UNITY project, outside the college in a half-hour before the meeting.

But the group's hasty presentation of the design by local architect Marshall Brown, was itself received with derision from hundreds of activists with the New York chapter of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform

Now (ACORN), who arrived en masse on chartered buses.

Condoned off by 84th Precinct police, they shouted slogans like, "What do we want? Affordable housing. When do we want it? Now!" coaxed on by Brooklyn ACORN director Betha Lewis.

Other organized groups, such as a lobbyist who brought in the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, which has worked on project labor agreements with Ratner's company in the past, and residents of the Ingersoll and Whitman public housing projects, also showed up, adding to the melee as the people filed into the auditorium on Jay Street.

In private meetings with the developer, ACORN and other organizations, along with the chairs and district managers of the three community boards, have been drafting a community benefits agreement, or CBA, over the past four months.

When word of the private meetings was reported by The Brooklyn Papers, board members urged their board leaders to host a public hearing to address issues of concern to the community.

While CB2 Chairwoman Shirley McRae defined the meeting as "not a hearing" but a presentation, attendees were encouraged to sign in, and handed index cards on which

to write questions to be read aloud by Hammerman after the presentation by Stuckey.

An outline for conduct was included in programs that were handed out, urging the audience to be "courteous to all speakers," forbidding signage or visual obstructions and notifying attendees that the moderator could edit questions for clarity.

Hammerman read letters from both the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) — which is expected to implement eminent domain land condemnations and be the governmental sponsor of the Ratner project — and the City Planning Commission, in which officials of those entities stated they could not speak about the project because they had not yet been assigned any official role.

Another key player is the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, whose 11-acre rail storage yards are a key component of the plan.

"MTA did not have the courtesy to respond to us," said Hammerman, and many concerned citizens booed and hissed loudly.

The ESDC, whose officials have acknowledged they are in negotiations with the developer, provided legal information outlining the public hearing process for state-level

developments that involve eminent domain — a key issue among opponents of the plan — which Hammerman read aloud and offered to provide to interested parties.

Also present at the meeting was former Councilwoman Una Clarke, who sits on the ESDC board and came as a representative of Gov. George Pataki. Clarke left the meeting shortly after Stuckey's presentation, and after only four questions had been posed to him from members of the public.

Assemblyman Carl Andrews and Councilwoman Letitia James were also present, along with members of BUILD and the Downtown Brooklyn Advisory and Oversight Committee, both of which are community organizations represented in the benefits agreement negotiations.

Stuckey's presentation varied little from the sketchy plans shown at an April meeting, but for the first time he outlined specifics of the affordable housing component of Atlantic Yards, specifying the number of units that would be reserved for various income levels.

Under the housing plan, which ACORN helped devise, 800 units would be available for families designated as low income. Two hundred of those would go to families earning \$18,840 to \$25,120 a year, and 600 to earners of between \$25,120 and \$31,400 annually.

Another 1,200 units would be for middle-income families — 400 each to \$31,400 to \$62,800, \$62,800 to \$87,920, and \$87,920 to \$100,480.

The project, as proposed, would have a total of 4,500 units.

Stuckey also announced that he expected ACORN to be chosen as the lead community sponsor for assigning and advertising the affordable housing.

One audience question asked why the community boards hosted the meeting if the project was to be implemented by state agencies.

"We're the only government agencies willing to put on a meeting for the community," answered Hammerman.

When a carpenter asked how his longstanding Fort Greene business factored in to those jobs, Stuckey said that was the point of the CBA negotiations, to help them reach into the local community.

An outburst stirred at the back of the room, starting with former BUILD member Darnell Canada, who supports the project but wants to see jobs and other benefits guaranteed to the community. His exhortation was soon surrounded by chants of "Let him speak! Let him speak!" as Hammerman continued to talk over the rising noise.

"If I don't speak, then there ain't nothing being said!" shouted Canada. "We want jobs! You're all complaining about this and that, you know what? We don't care about it. We're all worried about eating. You all are talking about what you don't want, but we want jobs!"

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ARENA BLIGHT...

Continued from page 1

Up to 11 acres of private property in that area could be condemned.

At the Nov. 29 informational meeting, jointly hosted by the three community boards — CB2, CB6 and CB8 — at New York City College of Technology downtown, Stuckey addressed the ways in which the state's eminent domain law could help his company acquire private property — a mix of condominiums, co-ops, apartment buildings, commercial property and vacant lots — whether the owner is willing to sell or not.

Ratner has been able to make most of the condo owners offers they could not refuse, reportedly paying well above market value for all but four apartments in two buildings.

Under eminent domain, however, the bulk of the private property in the site can be condemned if deemed eligible by the state to be developed for "public use," as spelled out in the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, provided owners are given "just compensation."

The topic was referred to at the meeting in a question-and-answer period with Stuckey during which the issue of a pending U.S. Supreme Court ruling on eminent domain was raised.

In that case, a woman in New London, Conn., and several of her neighbors have challenged that city's findings that property on which their houses stand can be taken to make way for a Pfizer office building under the determination that economic development, or higher tax revenue, could constitute public use. The Supreme Court is expected to hear the New London case this spring.

Addressing the audience questions about whether or not he thought the neighborhood was "blighted" — a term often used to justify urban renewal in low-income areas — and if the Connecticut case would have bearing in Brooklyn, Stuckey said the two examples of eminent domain were unrelated.

"That case has no bearing. I believe, on what will happen here, because the case here follows by what the Empire State Development Corporation (the state agency that would sponsor the project and enforce condemnations), and state and city determine based on this case, and the number of findings of, yes, blight," Stuckey said.

"You're blighted!" one woman shouted at Stuckey.

New York State's eminent domain law does not, in fact, require a determination of blight in order to condemn land for public use, according to a study released by the Institute for Justice, a Washington, D.C.-based public interest law firm that is representing

said Gall. "It doesn't mean a condo and it doesn't mean a stadium, or something where a private owner has it and uses it for his benefit."

Gall said the proposed Atlantic Yards condemnations appeared to be as much for economic development purposes as those in the New London case.

"It's just the same, but it's dressed up as blight," he said. "Most cases of blight we see are pretty flimsy."

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Council set to OK Watchtower plan

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

A hotly contested proposal by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society to build four mammoth towers at 85 Jay St. in the lower-rise neighborhoods of DUMBO and Vinegar Hill was approved this week by the City Council's Land Use committee, whose members gave the OK to requested zoning changes almost unanimously.

The vote paves the way for an expected approval of the plan by the full council within the next 10 days.

The lone dissenting vote on the influential 21-member committee was cast by East New York Councilman Charles Barron. Sixteen members were present for the vote.

Borough President Marty Markowitz had asked that the plan be downscaled by 60 percent and a 1,000-car parking garage be cut in half or made accessible to the public. Councilmembers Letitia James and David Yassky, whose districts the four-building complex straddles, had opposed the plan just last month on behalf of angry constituents.

But after the Watchtower offered concessions in a session before the zoning committee meeting, James and Yassky both reconsidered, helping pave the way for the application to pass, much to the chagrin of many of the site's DUMBO and Vinegar Hill neighbors.

"It is important to note that the original plan for 85 Jay St. was wildly out of scale with the area, and had a good chance at



A computer-enhanced image of the Watchtower Society's original DUMBO complex plan. A scaled-down version is set to be passed by the City Council.

passage without any compromise whatsoever," Yassky said after the Land Use committee's vote. He said the buildings were scaled back in response to the community's requests, and he cited the Watchtower Society's willingness to participate in area improvements as another last-minute deal clincher.

A proposed 20-story tower at Jay and York streets was downsized to have a lower street-facing wall — at 182 feet from 200 feet — but will still rise to the original 222 feet. A tower on Jay Street between York and Front streets, that was originally to be 18 stories would retain its 195-foot height, but have a street wall cut down from 175 to 157 feet.

The biggest changes were on the towers on Front Street, which is closest to the 12-story warehouses typical of the area. Both of those buildings were lowered to nine stories, dropping from 16 stories for a building between Jay and Bridge streets, and from 14 stories for a tower at the corner of Bridge Street, closest to Vinegar Hill.

Richard Devine, a spokesman for the Watchtower Society — the corporate entity for the Jehovah's Witnesses religious sect — said the victory wasn't easily won, and the redesign was thrown together in under two weeks by architect Richard Metesky of Beyer, Blinder, Bell.

"We were working on this in consultation with the land use and zoning committees," he said, and they tried to appease concerns about appearing out of context, and offered to improve security in the surrounding

neighborhood.

"Groundbreaking is still a way off," he said. According to Yassky aide Evan Thies, "open space improvements, working on public projects like Brooklyn Bridge Park and basketball courts near Furman Houses," were also offered, and the Watchtower Society has agreed to hire local contractors and subcontractors.

"They also detailed a local security plan to make the York Street [F train] subway safer," he said, that would include a self-funded security force, cameras and street lights at the station, which opens onto Jay Street.

James declined to comment on the vote, but said the proposed Watchtower buildings on Bridge Street, in her district, received "major modifications."

Christy Nyberg, a resident of a condominium complex at 79 Bridge St., which would face the Watchtower complex, acknowledged that the modifications were considerable, but didn't think they came close enough to what the community had asked for.

"It's a little disappointing," she said. "Primarily I think we're really sorry we didn't get a few more reductions that put the project in the scale of the neighborhood." Nyberg noted the support of elected officials including Reps. Nydia Velázquez and Edolphus Towns, who both sent letters urging the committee to disapprove the project.

Instead of trying to appeal to Council Speaker Gifford Miller, Nyberg said, "we're pretty much chalking this up to 'done,' and moving ahead." In a push for comprehensive rezoning and landmarking in the DUMBO area.

"Still, there's a huge amount of disappointment in the parking, that there was no move to bring down the number of cars," she lamented.

The size of the 77,000-square-foot parking lot, which Devine had told The Papers was something they wanted to keep, was a problem for Markowitz, too.

Markowitz's office did not return requests for comment by press time.

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Beats her with umbrella

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

A 40-year-old woman was assaulted Nov. 24 by an umbrella-wielding man in front of the state Supreme Courthouse at 360 Adams St.

The woman reported to police that she knew her assailant as a friend, but when the two got into an argument at 6:05 pm, he struck her on the head with his umbrella.

The woman suffered bleeding and swelling to the top of her head as a result of the attack and was brought to the Brooklyn Hospital Center.

Young gun
A 15-year-old boy mugged a woman on Second Place at Smith Street Nov. 26, threatening to shoot her if she didn't hand over her money.

The woman told police that the mugger approached at 4:51 pm as she walked eastbound on Second Place, demanding she fork over what money was in her wallet.

POLICE

"Don't be stupid, give me the money or I'll shoot you," he told her, and gestured with something in his right pocket, where his hand was, as if to show her he had a gun.

Police Officer Angela Green, of the 76th Precinct, arrested a suspect at the scene. Upon his arrest, the teenager's parent was notified.

Antique duo
The owner of an antique shop on Atlantic Avenue between Hoyt and Bond streets told police that two cagey "customers" stole her laptop.

The victim said she was working in the store on Nov. 19 at 12:30 pm when two men entered. She described both as black and about 20, one about 6-foot-1 and 150 pounds, wearing a blue jacket, red hat and large diamond earrings, the other 5-foot-9 and wearing a navy blue jacket.

She said she showed the man with the cartons around the shop while the man with the blue jacket — who, she told police, appeared to have a gun in his jacket — milled about.

Fearing for her safety, she allowed them to leave 20 minutes later without saying anything. But after they left, she told police, she noticed her \$1,500 Dell laptop computer was missing.

A woman was robbed on the corner of Court and Bergen streets at 12:30 pm on Nov. 23 while walking to a health clinic.

The woman, 36, told police that a man approached her and, using force, removed her purse from around her neck, and ran off in an unknown direction.

Train robber
A 32-year-old man was arrested on an overflight train at the Hoyt-Schermerhorn subway station when he was robbed by two coordinated pick-pockets who relied on the chaos of crowded cars.

The victim told police that on Nov. 23, at 7:45 pm, he was trying to get on the train when he

felt a man pushing him from behind, also trying to board, just before the train doors closed. The pusher's friend, who was still on the platform, told him to get off the train and wait for the next one, so he pushed back past the train and got off.

Only after the doors closed did the victim realize that his money had been stolen from his pants pocket.

He got off at the next station, and waited for the next train.

Gang attack

A gang of teenagers attacked a 19-year-old man as he walked home from a train station on Cobble Hill on Nov. 26.

At 11:35 pm he was near the southeast corner of Clinton and Kane streets, three younger teenagers approached and started beating him up, punching him in the face, causing bruises and cuts, and robbing him of a jacket and cell phone.

Salon rob

A woman reported a break-in at a beauty salon on Court Street between Luquer and Fourth Place in Carroll Gardens on Nov. 23. She said the break-in occurred between 10:30 am and 12:40 pm.

The woman, 31, said that she noticed someone had entered the commercial establishment by breaking a window to the rear door. The salon reported that \$160 had been taken from the cash register.

Loose goosie

A customer apparently having a nicotine fit attacked a man working in a candy shop on Myrtle Avenue at Prince Street.

When the stranger entered at 10:30 pm on Nov. 25, asking the 35-year-old employee to sell him a single cigarette — commonly referred to as a "loose" — he was told the store only sold full packs of 20. The man became upset and began to throw bottles on the ground.

The wild man lashed out and struck the clerk, causing a bruise to his head and cutting his face. As the thug fled the store, he grabbed the other employee and took his cellular phone and a necklace. The clerk called police.

LEGAL NOTICES

New York State Brownfield Cleanup Program. Notice of Application to Participate. Applicant: Manhattan Dairy Corp. and its Affiliate LNU Dairy Corp. Site Name: 233 Midland Ave. Site Address: 233 Midland St., Apt. 1128. Site Address: 333 Midland St., Apt. 1128. Site Address: 333 Midland St., Apt. 1128. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) administers the Brownfield Cleanup Program. The Brownfield Cleanup Program is designed to encourage the remediation of contaminated properties known as brownfields for reuse and redevelopment. The Applicant identified above has submitted an application to participate in the Brownfield Cleanup Program. The application was determined to be complete by the Department and is currently under review for eligibility. The property described in the application is identified by the Site Name and Site Address identified above and is located at the address above. The application proposes that the Applicant will conduct investigation and/or remedial action at the site, to the satisfaction of the Department. The Department will accept public comments concerning the application, as well as copies of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment dated March 10, 2004, a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment dated October 2, 2003, groundwater quality data dated September 9, 2004, and a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study dated August 4, 2004 for thirty days from December 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004. After review of the application and any public comments received, the Department will determine whether to accept the Applicant's request to participate in the Brownfield Cleanup Program. If the Department accepts the Applicant's request to participate, it will execute a Brownfield Cleanup Agreement (BCA) with the Applicant. By executing a BCA, the Applicant would commit to undertake the project under the Department's oversight. The Department will require the Applicant to inform and involve the public during the process. A copy of the application and other relevant documents are available in the document repository for this site located at the Brooklyn Public Library, Williamsburg, 240 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211. The application attached documents in the repository have not been reviewed by Department staff prior to their release for public comment. The Department, in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health, will review these documents during the public comment period. The public is encouraged to offer comments in writing and refer questions to the Department representative identified below. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 2 Office, 41-42 21st Street, Long Island City, New York 11101. ATTN: Daniel Walsh, Phone 8: (718) 482-6599. The Department's website provides additional information about the Brownfield Cleanup Program at www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dec/bcfp.asp. (P&W)

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Police blotter...

Continued from page 2

Fresh cash taken

A 41-year-old woman was mugged on Nov. 25 at 4:45 pm just moments after leaving a Washington Mutual bank on the corner of Fifth Avenue and 14th Street in

Park Slope.

The woman told police she was withdrawing cash, and had walked a block away to the corner of 15th Street when three men, approximately 18 to 20 years of age, grabbed her from behind and held both arms behind her while they went through her pockets.

The men took \$200 and her debit card, and fled eastbound on 14th Street from Fifth.

Tow no

The driver of a tow truck was robbed of a vehicle he was in the process of towing on Nov. 22 at the northeast corner of Atlantic and Third avenues.

The man said he was driving at 5:30 pm and had loaded a 1997 Ford Explorer with Ohio license plates at the rear of the truck, when, at a stop light, a man jumped into the vehicle and drove clean off the tow rig.

Out of nowhere

A 26-year-old Gowanus man was attacked a block and a half from his apartment by two men who took his cellular phone and \$100.

The man told police that as he walked on 15th Street between Third and Fourth avenues, a man placed him in a chokehold from behind, while

another man reached into his pocket and removed his property.

Both perps fled, and the victim was unable to provide description of the men.

Gun to side

A 56-year-old man was mugged on the southwest corner of Flatbush Avenue and Pacific Street on Nov. 23 at 5:40 am.

The man told police he was walking northbound on Flatbush approaching Pacific when a stranger approached him and stuck a silver-and-black handgun to his side before demanding his money. The man removed the victim's identification, as well as \$20 in cash and a black shoulder bag containing personal papers. The perp fled westbound on Pacific Street towards Fourth Avenue.

Gang mug

A 19-year-old man was attacked in Gowanus by a gang of six to eight males who approached him from behind, on Nov. 27.

The man told police they approached him from behind on Butler Street towards Third and Fourth avenues and said, "If you move, we'll [expletive] you up!"

They then took his property and fled towards Fourth Av-

enue on foot. The victim said one man, wearing a beige jacket, shoved him to the ground. He was unable to describe the other attackers. The teen refused medical attention.

This ain't Rutland

A 29-year-old man from Worcester, Mass., was mugged on DeGraw Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues on Nov. 28 at 12:25 am.

The man told police that three men approached him from behind and hit him on his head before taking his wallet, which contained his ID, credit cards and ATM card.

Train robber

A 32-year-old man was boarding an overstaffed A train at the Hoyt-Schermerhorn subway station when he was robbed by two coordinated pocket-pickers who relied on the chaos of crowded cars.

The victim told police that on Nov. 23, at 7:45 pm, he was trying to get on the train when he felt a man pushing him from behind, also trying to board, just before the train

doors closed. The pusher's friend, who was still on the platform, told him to get off the train and wait for the next one, so he pushed back past the victim and got off.

Only after the doors closed did the victim realize that his money had been stolen from his pants pocket.

He got off at the next station, and waited for the next train.

Gang attack

A gang of teenagers attacked a 19-year-old man as he walked home from a train station in Cobble Hill on Nov. 26.

At 11:35 pm, as he neared the southeast corner of Clinton and Kane streets, three

younger teenagers approached and started beating him up, punching him in the face, causing bruises and cuts, and robbing him of a jacket and cell phone.

Time bandit

A Downtown Brooklyn woman told police that a \$1,000 watch was stolen from her apartment on Albee Square near Fulton Street on Nov. 22.

The victim, 43, said she left the apartment at 9 am, but when she returned, at 11 am, she discovered the door to the apartment had been pried open, and she discovered the watch was missing.

The watch was described as rose-tinted gold with diamonds.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 19th day of November, 2004, bearing the Index Number 000590/2004, a copy of which may be viewed at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, 6000 COURT ST., 14th Floor, New York, New York 10014, in room 002, grants me rights to assume the name of Stanley Sylvester Goffish. My present name is Stanley Sylvester Goffish, Jr. aka Stanley Sylvester Goffish. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is 10/10/1964. My present address is 371 Douglas Street, #2, Brooklyn, New York 11217.

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LEGAL NOTICES

State University of New York, Notice to Bidder, The State University of New York Dormitory Medical Center will receive sealed Proposals for Project No. 98-254 titled: **Regina Cella and Light Fixtures, BSC Conduits, Floor and Wall Tiles and Sound Time** on or after 12:30 PM at 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203, Box 1-15, where such proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at 1:00 PM on the Contract is to be completed within 90 calendar days starting from 120 calendar days after the contract approved date of the New York State Comptroller Bidding and Contract Documents may be examined free of charge at the campus and at 450 Clarkson Avenue, Room 1-15, Brooklyn, NY 11203. See SUNY Contract. For name of Bidder that apply from Form 150-F, i.e., Bidder's Letter, Design Report, Complete sets of Contract Documents for bidding may be obtained from: Matthew Bari, SUNY Dormitory Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 1-15, Brooklyn, NY 11203 (718) 275-2387, mbari@dormitorymedical.edu, the Contract. Section 145 of the State Finance Law requires payment of a deposit to receive these documents. Accordingly, a deposit check of \$60.00, made payable to SUNY Dormitory Medical Center is required. Deposits less than \$60.00 are non-refundable. Bids must be submitted in duplicate in accordance with the instructions contained in the information for Bidders. Security will be required for each bid in an amount not less than 10 percent of the bid. Bid is the property of the State of New York and the State University of New York. Incomplete or irregularly submitted bids may be rejected without the right to be heard. The State University of New York reserves the right to reject any or all bids. BPSD

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 17th day of November, 2004, hearing the Index Number N00702-0004, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to: Assume the name of: Ramiel

Hedjequet Maquet, My present name is: Marilyn F. Capri a/k/a Marilyn Williams a/k/a Karimarah Hedjequet Maquet born Marilyn Tracy Williams. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is 04/18/1968. My present address is: 7 Flushing 3 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11235. BPSD

Notice of formation Limited Liability Co. (LLC) State Street Photography, LLC. Article of Organization were filed with NY DOS 10/28/2004. Kings County, Secretary of State of NY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against may be served. SUNY shall not copy of process to State Street Photography, LLC, 195 15th St. B1, Brooklyn, NY 11215. Purpose: Any lawful corporate. BPSD

Notice is hereby given that a Restaurant Wine including Beer License #154613 has been issued to the undersigned to sell beer and wine under the Alcohol Beverage Control Law at 139 Flatbush Ave., 3rd Floor, Brooklyn, Kings County for on-premise consumption. CEC, Entertainment, Inc., 4441 W. Airport Freeway, Irving, TX, 75062. BPSD

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 10th day of August, 2004, hearing the Index Number N0032005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to: Assume the name of: Joshua James Perdomo. My present name is: Chester James Perdomo. My present address is: 383 Parkside Avenue, B6, Brooklyn, NY 11226. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is: 10/29/2003. BPSD

Notice of Formation (LLC) Name: Tiana Realty, LLC. Article of Organization filed with NY Dept. of State on 9-23-2004. Office location: Kings County, NY DOS shall mail copy of process to 341 Warren St., Brooklyn, NY 11217. BPSD

U2 footed bill for show

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

When U2 scaled these city walls or, rather, rolled across the Manhattan Bridge on a flatbed truck, only to be met by thousands of adoring fans in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park for a free mini-concert debuting songs from their new album last week, they left behind more than a dispersing crowd and trodden grass.

The impromptu performance brought at least \$12,000 to the state Parks Department, and left more than a few city employees with a smile on their faces.

Wendy Gibson, a state Parks Department spokeswoman, said that aside from the required permit that was issued, the Irish rockers paid for the costs of extra police security details, backup Parks Department staffing, and gave a voluntary donation to the Natural Heritage Trust, a public-benefit corporation that contributes to the budgets of the state Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of State and her own agency.

But how the mega-band's concert stayed a secret until the last-minute, despite the band and co-sponsor MTV having applied for a permit well in advance, had more to do with the tight lips among Parks Department employees.

"We typically don't discuss events that come through us," Gibson said, despite how unfathomable it may be that employees from the regional office of the department, based in the city, didn't leak word.

"Even if a family wants to rent a pavilion at one of our parks, we don't share that information," she insisted.



Lead singer Bono and drummer Larry Mullen during surprise U2 concert in DUMBO last week.

the time — we're there. Although this event was larger than most," said OEM spokesman Jarrod Bernstein.

"There's not a U2 concert every day, but there's something usually going on," he added.

A spokesman from the NYPD's public information office declined to specify how many officers were sent for crowd control, but said any costs incurred over what was paid by the band were "minimal."

"Maybe one or two Fire Department resources were

there, but we had nothing of any kind of measure," the spokesman said.

Captain Philip Sferazza, commanding officer of the local 84th Precinct, assessed the situation by saying that his stationhouse assigned about 50 officers to work crowd control and mitigate traffic, but few were on overtime and many were pulled from nearby precincts in Patrol Borough Brooklyn North.

But even if they didn't get paid overtime, he said many of the cops on duty seemed to be having a good time.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

December 4, 2004



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Buy their love

Brooklyn shops have the perfect gifts for those special people

By Lisa J. Curtis
CO Brooklyn Editor

The holidays may be looming, but there's no need to trek far from home for memorable presents for everyone on your list. From gifts to cards to wrapping supplies, Brooklyn's friendly boutique owners have got it all in a neighborhood near you.

Discover **The Hand Laundry**, a 2-year-old shop with Irish flair, for presents for pet lovers, babies, men and women. There isn't a Brooklynite here or abroad that wouldn't love one of the Brooklyn Bridge glass sun-catchers (\$8.50) that are exclusively sold here. Whether they hang in a window, on a Christmas tree, or they're affixed with a bow to a larger gift, you'll want to pick up several in a variety of colors.

Also at Hand Laundry are the ingredients for thoughtful gift baskets. For the home, include tea, chaise, potholders and kitchen towels. For animal lovers, include ceramic food dishes, "Doggone Odors" candles and pet treats.

Before you check out, treat yourself to a bit of holiday glamour; choose from beaded evening bags, jewelry and cut velvet scarves. For gifts for the men, women and babies in your life, visit the 44-year-old **Jewels by Satnick** store in Brooklyn Heights. Here,

owner Hartley Satnick, a certified master watchmaker, offers everything from Bulova watches, to one-of-a-kind pottery and blown glass, and more.

Know someone with a foot fetish? In Satnick's window, darling sterling silver and enamel shoe charms are easy on the wallet at just \$20. Buy a few, and really wow her!

If you're the type that shudders when you see the amount of plastic toys that get unwrapped each year, you'll love **Acorn**, Karin Schaefer and Diane Crespo's newly opened toy boutique on Atlantic Avenue. Acorn features interesting children's clothing made by Brooklynites, classic tin and wood toys, Christmas stockings, tooth fairy pillows and more. Even the design of the shop — toys are arranged on tree trunks sliced lengthwise — offers a rejuvenating tree-house ambience. The Groovy Holidays felt gift bags by Fresco (\$8 and up) are so cute, they could double as handbags. Acorn's toy selection is carefully edited for quality and they are committed to selecting fair trade toys and sweatshop-free clothing. Now that's something to feel good about.

At **Treasure Chest of Fine Jewelry**, which has been selling baubles just off Fulton Mall for seven years, owner George Babuay will help you select a personalized

SHOPPING

Acorn, 323 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 522-3760, www.acorn-hq.com

Barney's, Inside Gamesman barber shop, 64 Schermerhorn St. at Court Street in Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 875-8355

The Baseball Card Dugout, 453 Court St. at Fourth Place in Carroll Gardens, (718) 624-2527, www.joeclarkcards.com

The Greene Grape, 745 Fulton St. at South Portland in Fort Greene, (718) 797-WINE, www.greengrape.com

The Hand Laundry, 456 State St. at Nevins Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 852-7555, www.thehandlaundry.com

Jewels by Satnick, 196 Joralemon St. at Court Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 852-1421

Treasure Chest of Fine Jewelry, 408 Jay St. at Willoughby Street in Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 625-3172

gift with lots of bling: gold rings, earrings and necklaces with the recipient's name on them start at \$49.95. Babuay will have your order ready the next day — or sooner.

For jewelry that really sparkles with "love," check out the 1-karat diamond ladies tennis bracelet in yellow or white gold (\$300) or heart-shaped Techno Mania watches by JPM, framed in diamonds, with trendy croc bands (\$495). Too expensive? Ask

Babuay about in-store financing on purchases of \$799 and up.

Is there a cigar aficionado on your list? Follow the smoke rings to **Barney's** walk-in humidor in the rear of the Gamesman barber shop in Downtown Brooklyn. That's right, in this unlikely location (Barney's will move to Court and State streets in the early spring, said employee Buddy Gupta), you'll find secreted away the best cigars, swankiest humidors and fanciest lighters (also known as "ignition systems") if you throw in the steel punch cutter and carrying case for \$100.

Gupta showed us individual cigars ranging from 75 cents to the difficult-to-find, \$25 Opus X, a special blend by Arturo Fuente. Other premium cigar brands available at Barney's include: Dunhill, Ashton, Monte Cristo, Avo, Griffin, Romeo y Julieta, Bacarat and Bahia.

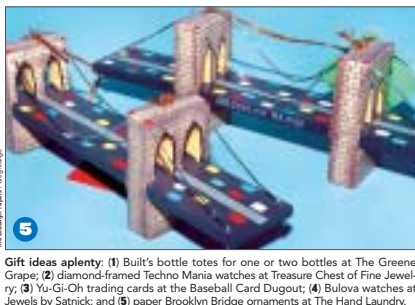
If there's a sports fan or comic book buff in your life, and you're baffled about choosing the perfect gift, visit **The Baseball Card Dugout** in Carroll Gardens. Owner Joseph Attianese is always behind the counter and has a wealth of ideas for (big kid collectors. Look here for sought-after autographed cards or memorabilia featuring Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback phenom "Big Ben" Roethlisberger or the Giants' top draft pick quarterback Eli Manning. The Dugout also has limited edition "Superman" sculptures by artist Jim Lee (\$200), a Thurman Munson baseball card with a swatch of fabric from his Yankees uniform, and boxes of Bowman's Best NFL cards that include 10 autographs (\$135). If they collect it, Attianese has it or can order it fast.

Whether you're shopping for your favorite enophile or you're looking for a hostess gift, **Greene Grape** co-owner Jason Richelson has quality, vine-related ideas that are sure to ferment happiness. From wine gift sets, to bottle totes to handmade wineglass charms designed by Mayumi Miyazaki, this wine boutique has distinctive gifts in a variety of price ranges. For those who believe that size matters, the New World Red Sac au Vin features six bottles of red wine from small producers presented in a handmade, jute cane carrying bag (\$85).

Wrap up Greene Grape's Pierre Gimonnet Champagne gift set, featuring a bottle of the Fleurons Blanc de Blancs 1996 Brut with two champagne flutes from Stieglitz-Oberglas (\$65), and your recipient will surely raise a toast to your good taste.



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Gift ideas aplenty: (1) Built's bottle totes for one or two bottles at The Greene Grape; (2) diamond-framed Techno Mania watches at Treasure Chest of Fine Jewelry; (3) Yu-Gi-Oh trading cards at the Baseball Card Dugout; (4) Bulova watches at Jewels by Satnick; and (5) paper Brooklyn Bridge ornaments at The Hand Laundry.

MUSIC

Regular folk

Singer-songwriters Bev Grant (pictured) and Joe Jencks will swap songs for two sets of roots music at the Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor on Dec. 10, beginning at 8 pm.

Grant, who is also the director of the Brooklyn Women's Chorus and a self-described "cultural activist," has recorded four albums. (The Park Slope resident's talent is known to more than just local audiences; her performance of her song "Inez" was included on the Smithsonian/Folkways "Best of Broadside" album (2000).)

Grant's co-star on Friday is Seattle-based folk musician Joe Jencks, who has also recorded several CDs. His latest is "I Hear Your Voice" (Turtle Bear Music).

The Good Coffeehouse concerts take place inside the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope. Tickets are \$10, \$6 for children. For more information, call (718) 768-2972.

—Lisa J. Curtis

MUSIC

Bar flies

A star-studded cast will take the St. Ann's Warehouse stage on Dec. 8 for Arts at St. Ann's 25th anniversary benefit bash. Among the musicians (aka barflies) who will perform "Fire at Keaton's Bar & Grill" are Laurie Anderson, Lou Reed (pictured), Dan Zanes & Cynthia Hopkins, the Jazz Passengers, Marc Anthony, Thompson and Nellie McKay. Deborah Harry will reprise her role as the bartender in Roy Nathanson's song cycle about a mythical dive bar.

In 2000, "Fire at Keaton's," featuring Harry and Elvis Costello, premiered at St. Ann's in their former home in the Church of St. Ann and the Holy Trinity on Montague Street. After four sold-out performances, it went on to a successful European tour. For Wednesday's one-night-only revival, the DUIMBO warehouse (located at 38 Water St. at Dock Street) will be transformed into a bar and grill where dinner and cocktails will be served during and after the show.

For ticket prices and more information, call (718) 834-8794 ext. 14.

—Lisa J. Curtis

BOOKS

Love stinks

Just in time to buoy the spirits of fellow holiday season grinchers, Manhattan author Kipnis will read from her book, "Against Love: A Polemic" at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library on Saturday.

Kipnis is always provocative and often laugh-out-loud funny in her attempts to persuade the reader that love is a social construct and Americans have been brainwashed with disastrous consequences (skyrocketing divorce rates, infidelity, domestic abuse, etc.).

"Why bother to make marriage compulsory when informal compulsions work so well that even gays — once such paragons of unregulated sexuality, once so contemptuous of whitebread hetero lifestyles — are now demanding state regulation too?" writes Kipnis. "What about re-envisioning the form: rethinking the premises? What about insisting that social resources and privileges not be allocated on the basis of marital status? No, let's demand regulation!"

Published in September in a new stocking-sized paperback by Vintage Books, Kipnis' book is still large enough to ignite a large family conflagration. Give heed:

Kipnis seamlessly weaves in loads of sources (note the five-page bibliography) to back up her controversial theme. Read cautiously — she might convince you, too.

Kipnis will read from her book at the Central Library's second floor auditorium on Dec. 4 at 2 pm. (The Central Library is located at Grand Army Plaza.) For more information, call (718) 230-2100 or visit the Web site at www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

—Lisa J. Curtis

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BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: PROSPECT HEIGHTS

Aliseo Osteria del Borgo

665 Vanderbilt Ave. at Park Place, (718) 783-3400 (Cash only) Entrees: \$13.50-\$19.50. ★
Tucked in the heart of Prospect Heights, this tiny Italian restaurant features a new menu each day. Sample inventive dishes like "lonzone di miele con fagioli" (pork loin stuffed with figs) or "bis-tectina ripiena" (steak stuffed with herbs and prosciutto). There are also interesting pasta dishes such as the "lasagne con anatra" (lasagna with duck ragu) with bechamel cream sauce. Check out the cheese selection, and the wine list, much of which hails from the Marche region of Italy, like Aliseo's owner, Albano Balzerini. For dessert, try the "panna cotta all'antica" — intense-flavored panna cotta with figs in orange sauce. Open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday.

Brooklyn Museum Cafe

200 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue, (718) 638-5200, www.brooklynmuseum.org (MC, Visa) Sandwiches: \$6.25-\$7.25. Contemplate the artwork of Asia, Africa and ancient Egypt over Starbucks coffee. Discuss the Latin Expressionism of Mark Rothko over beer or wine. Marvel at the bold genius of Auguste Rodin's "Monument to Balzac" over chicken fingers and fries. The cafe is the perfect place for a timeout after wandering by the museum's impressive holdings. Recent menu additions include panini sandwiches, a salad bar and pasta entrees. Museum admission: \$6.50; \$3.50 for students and seniors; free to Brooklyn Museum members and children 12 and younger. Open Wednesday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm.

Garden Cafe

620 Vanderbilt Ave. at Prospect Place, (718) 857-8863 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$20-\$22. With summer fast approaching, the name of this 19-year-old restaurant recalls warmer times, sunshine and blooming flowers. Many of the dishes on chef John Polcastro's menu incorporate warm, sunny flavors. His grilled pheasant is served with seared foie gras and apricot glaze; the Australian lamb medallion comes with wild mushroom duelles (paste) and sweet, curly-infused pan juices; and the wild Oregon salmon arrives with bouillabaisse broth and saffron tomato mayonnaise. For dessert, Camille Polcastro, a chocolate lover, is partial to the chocolate tree leche pudding. But the ginger molasses spiced pear cake with ginger custard sauce and the key lime pie with coconut vanilla sauce are also tempting. Price five menus, served Tuesday through Thursday, are \$23 for two courses and \$29 for three courses. Closed Sunday and Monday.

Hibiscus Cafe

564 Vanderbilt Ave. at Dean Street, (718) 638-6850, www.hibiscusflowershop.com (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8.50-\$10.50. Get away from the big city — even if only for an hour — in this mini Caribbean paradise with citrus fruit-colored walls and tropical flowers in the windows.

"The [decor's] effect is very vibrant and calming at the same time," says Robina White, who co-owns the cafe and the Hibiscus Flower Shop next-door with her husband, Richard McLean. Experience the full tropical effect by doing it in one of the four tables, or choose the takeout option if you're on the go. White, who is also the chef, makes everything, from smoothies to soups, salads and warm meals to pastries and cakes, keeping both vegans and carnivores in mind. Her signature vegan, non-dairy gingerbread, in the shape of a muffin, has customers coming back for more. (All of Hibiscus Cafe's baked goods are house-made.) The tofu stir-fry with carrots, cabbage, spinach and celery made in a ginger sauce and served on a bed of rice with a side of salad is the vegan diner's favorite, said White.

Although the cafe doesn't serve beef or pork, you may forget they exist after trying the jerk chicken with rice, peas, salad or cabbage on the side. The roti, homemade West Indian bread, served as a wrap and filled with either curried potato, "channa" (chickpeas), vegetables or chicken and served with a side of plantains and salad accommodates both vegans and carnivores. Among the beverages is White's "Mandarin," a tropical smoothie made from sea moss, bananas, peaches and pineapple. Hibiscus is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday, from 8 am to 9 pm. Closed Mondays.

Le Gamin

556 Vanderbilt Ave. at Dean Street, (718) 789-5711 (AmEx, MC, V) Entrees: \$5-\$14. ★
Owner Kathy Palm started out as a regular in Le Gamin's Chelsea branch. Smitten by the hospitality of "Naughty Boy" (the English translation of the French name, Le Gamin), Palm opened her own version of the cafe, which combines the ease of a coffee bar with the understated appeal of a casual French eatery. The cafe's specialty, the crepe, ranges from

★ = Full review available at

Brooklyn Papers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx = American Express, DC = Diner's Club, Disc = Discover Card, MC = MasterCard, Visa = Visa Card



Le Gamin's Kathy Palm with a giant cup of cafe au lait.

savory versions made with buckwheat batter to the lighter-tasting dessert crepes made with white flour — "the best dishes on the menu," according to GO Brooklyn critic Tina Barry. Filled with Valrhona chocolate and banana slices, the dessert crepe, when paired with Le Gamin's famous cafe au lait, makes for a first-rate meal, says Barry. (Hazelnut chocolate spread, Nutella, can be substituted for the dark Valrhona.)

Server Nicole Gunther recommends the popular "L'oeuf Gamin," a poached egg, goat cheese and potato cake with ratatouille (a mix of zucchini, peppers and eggplant in a tomato sauce). Le Gamin now serves beer and wine. Open daily, from 8 am to 10 pm.

New Prospect Cafe

393 Flatbush Ave. at St. John's Place, (718) 638-5393 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.75-\$16. The selections at the New Prospect Cafe are some well-traveled dishes, indeed. Take an appetizer like skewered chicken — at home anywhere — garnish it with a southeast Asian-style spicy peanut sauce and serve it over Japanese udon noodles. That's the idea for many of the dishes on the menu here, although some are more familiar (penne pasta with spinach, portobello mushrooms and pine nuts) than others (blackened catfish with green mule, salsa and corn pudding). For dessert, enjoy German chocolate cake. Open daily for lunch and dinner and brunch on the weekends.

Soda Bar

620 Vanderbilt Ave. at St. Mark's Avenue, (718) 857-8863 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Dishes: \$8-\$20. Decorated with signature ice cream parlor signs, Soda Bar, which opened in 2002, will expand with the addition of Soda Lounge this month, according to bartender Michael L'Donnici.

"Henry Bosses had a sundae shop and soda fountain here for years," owner Anatoly Dubinsky told GO Brooklyn, "so the name and the signs come from him, an aboriginal bar with burgers and pierogies, which the bar has served since its opening, the more upscale Soda Lounge next door will serve what Dubinsky describes as "American tapas," small cheese plates and antipasti. The new addition will also feature margaritas made from fresh seasonal fruit and cocktails mixed with Boylan sodas. Open daily through Thursday, from 5 pm to 3 am; Friday, until 4 am; Saturday, from 2 pm to 4 am; and Sunday, from 2 pm to 2 am.

Tavern on Dean

755 Dean St. at Underhill Avenue, (718) 638-5208 (MC, Disc, Visa) Entrees: \$10.95-\$18.95. ★
Tavern on Dean is a cozy American bistro. Chef Hugo Amador's menu offers bar food — hamburgers and club sandwiches — as well as more substantial fare. Sample the roasted half-chicken, sautéed catfish, roast herb salad, steamed mussels in white wine or marinated marinated hanger steak with a merlot and shallot reduction. The kitchen is open until 3 am, Thursday through Saturday, and until 1 am the rest of the week. Dine in the enclosed, heated garden at year round. Open for dinner daily.

Terrace Cafe

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave. at Montgomery Street (718) 625-7200, www.bbg.org (under the "Visitor Information" link) (Cash only) Menu: \$3.50-\$6.25. If you're tempted to eat the greenery on display at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, be sure to hop to the Terrace Cafe, which offers lunches and beverages. The menu features sandwiches like grilled chicken and ham and Swiss, as well as assorted salads and Texas-style chili. Dining is possible on the terrace from spring to early fall and in the lower level of the Steinhardt Conservatory in late fall and winter. Open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm during winter; and from 10 am to 5 pm in the summer. Closed Mondays.

Tom's Diner

782 Washington Ave. at Sterling Place (718) 636-9738 (Cash only) Entrees: \$3.75-\$10. Steeped in nostalgia, Tom's Diner serves food in a family environment with the glided grace of Glen Miller. Not only does the restaurant keep the past alive and dear, its customers come back for generations, says owner Gus Vlahakis. Bountiful stacks of pancakes — from pumpkin-walnut to lemon ricotta to cranberry and sweet corn — top the breakfast menu, while the lunch menu is all comfort food, like roast chicken or turkey with stuffing. On Thursday, corned beef and cabbage remain a weekly special. Try a cherry-lime icky, a classic fountain drink made with fresh lime juice, or the authentic milkshakes and malted milks. Open 6 am to 4 pm, Monday through Sunday.



The Brooklyn Papers © Greg Meyer

Love bites

Park Slope's Cantina puts the 'X' in Mexican with its darkly romantic setting

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

If I had a boyfriend, I'd consider taking him to Cantina, a Mexican restaurant on the edge of Park Slope. It's dark inside. Dampness lurks behind the aroma of chili, and there's something illicit about the tables tucked into the dark corners in back. If I needed my inhibitions lowered, I'd order the best margarita available in these parts (not frozen, no salt), and wait two seconds for its effect to kick in. When I was numb and happy, I'd untangle my fingers from his and, feeling at the menu.

I'd notice the standard fare first, glance at the menu, and then, I'd appreciate a perfect avocado he selected, and the creaminess of the mix with its fresh notes of cilantro and bite of onion. We wouldn't mind sharing it, even if, alone, we'd eat the entire bowl.

We'd find the first spoonful of black bean soup bland, but once we'd tasted it with the sour cream and a spoonful of the pico de gallo we'd begin to enjoy it. We'd be so content sharing a plate of the shrimp with garlic sauce, a classic dish from Vera Cruz. It's a big portion of eight large, perfectly tender shrimp. Hot guajillo peppers and a shot of tequila give the light sauce a

smoky edge, and julienned strips of fresh, raw spinach, soften as they sit in sauce. My boyfriend would be blissed out on the food and a couple of shots of specialty tequila (30 varieties are on hand) that owner Esteban Chauca stocks. The cheese quesadillas he'd try would be filled with fluffy, tangy, stringy, Oaxaca cheese, not the usual, bland Monterey Jack. We'd gobble them up in seconds.

We'd be on a roll and order *chiles rellenos*, a dish you can find now and then in New York, but which is usually disappointing. This is the real thing. Cantina fills a mild poblano chili with the cheese, coats it in a light batter, then fries it until it's crisp. He tops it with a dollop of chili sauce made with tomato, jalapeno and a touch of the

Fourth Avenue find: (Clockwise from top left) Cantina chef Juan Carreon serves plates of shrimp with garlic sauce (left) and stuffed poblano chiles in this new Park Slope restaurant; Carreon's skewered marinated chicken breast with chorizo sausage, bacon, onions, tomatoes and jalapenos on a bed of rice and beans; and a perfect beginning to a meal at Cantina includes lime, strawberry or melon margaritas paired with fresh guacamole and tortilla chips.

pungent herb epazote. Mild yellow rice and refried pinto beans that are quietly spiced — yet not dull — are served with the entrees.

The description for chilis in walnut sauce would sound like too much of a good thing, but we'd order it anyway, and it would be delicious. In Mexico, the dish is usually served in August, around Saint's Day in the Puebla region when the poblano chili is available.

In it, a poblano pepper is filled with picadillo, a mixture of ground beef, finely chopped onion, and for this preparation, a bit of grated orange peel and dark raisins. Over that is a tangy, nutty light sauce made with farmer cheese and sour cream flavored with fresh walnuts. Pomegranate seeds sparkle atop the dish like rubies, their firm texture and tart-sweet taste complementing the softness of the chiles. At Cantina, we'd eat every bit then scrape the sauce off the plate with our

forks. The chimichangas, two fried flour tortillas filled with a shredded chicken are crisp and the filling is moist and subtly spiced. Both sauces that border the tortillas — one made with tomatoes (a mild green tomato with tart taste), the other a smoky red sauce of tomatoes flavored with chili powder — could use more spice.

Desserts are not terribly exciting. There's a flan that's not bad, but nothing special, featuring triangles of hot fried tortillas, drizzled with honey, served with a scoop of good vanilla ice cream and dabbed with fresh whipped cream, that is nothing to get worked up over. I've driven past Cantina since it opened in June, never expecting to find such a likeable place. My boyfriend would be happy with his meal. I'm sure my husband would like it, too.

DINING

Cantina Mexican Bar & Restaurant
(494 Fourth Ave. between 11th and 12th streets in Park Slope) accepts American Express, Discover and Visa. Entrees: \$9.95-\$14.95. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. For more information, call (718) 369-5850.

Casa Calamari expands menu

"I'm going to make you a pizza you can't refuse," says a poster hanging on the back wall of Casa Calamari, an Italian seafood restaurant in Bay Ridge, marking back to the classic "Godfather" line. And how could you resist such an offer from a young Marlon Brando pictured with a mean slice of pizza? It's just one of several new additions to the restaurant's menu.

Casa Calamari's wide-ranging selection rivals that of fine Italian restaurants — except for the prices. "Ridiculous prices," said co-owner Leo Lyoukourous. "Very, very cheap." Casa Calamari's informal decor, on the other hand, is a cross between a pizzeria, a family diner and a sports bar. "We're not a sports bar," said waiter Nick Zivanovic. "But people who know about us, they come here and watch the game."

The glass-and-tile dining room, featuring an open kitchen, is lit by the red-and-green neon sign bearing the restaurant's name and logo, a friendly-looking octopus.

The new pizza counter to the left of the entrance was added to the restaurant just seven months ago, when Lyoukourous became the partner of Tom Cucco (pictured at left). In addition to seafood classics like clams and oysters on the half shell, and shrimp and lobster cocktail, the restaurant now offers

pasta and a wide range of traditional and specialty pizzas. Lyoukourous recommends the "focaccia di nonna (grandma's pizza)," made with homemade mozzarella, crushed San Marzano tomatoes, basil and a hint of fresh garlic and Tuscan olive oil.

For pizza with a little twist, try one of the calzones, which are made to order. "John makes the best calzone in all of Bay Ridge," said Jeff Hamratty, a loyal customer about the new addition to the menu. "I come here four to five times a week." Hamratty special-orders his calzone with sausage, pepperoni, green peppers, mushrooms and extra mozzarella cheese.

Pasta aficionados, Lyoukourous suggests, should try the penne, either with vodka cream sauce, prosciutto, peas and mushrooms or with chicken, spinach and sun-dried tomatoes.

Since seafood is Casa Calamari's trademark, remember to begin your Italian dining experience with the golden-fried calamari appetizer.

Casa Calamari Pizza and Pasta [8602 Third Ave. at 86th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 921-1900] accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. The restaurant, open daily, serves lunch specials Monday through Thursday, from 11 am to 3:30 pm. Pizza windows is open daily until 2 am. —Aja Grodzanski

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'Side Man' rings true

Warren Leight's play strikes a few chords with viewers

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

In Warren Leight's semi-autobiographical play "Side Man," the subject is talented trumpeter Gene Glimmer, whose passion for his music eclipses his love for his wife and child.

In the 1940s, a sideman was a jazz musician who went from gig to gig playing backup for bandleaders or solo singers. The playwright's own father was the trumpeter Don Leight (who died last January at age 80).

Leight's play, starring John Blaylock as Glimmer, is now being staged at the Gallery Players, directed by Heather Siobhan Curran.

Narrated by Gene's son, Clifford (named after the famed trumpeter Clifford Brown), "Side Man" depicts the death of the great jazz bands and the decline of Gene's marriage to Terry (Erin Kate Howard). Clifford, who is now being staged at the Gallery Players, directed by Heather Siobhan Curran.

Clifford is the central figure in the plot — the man whose passion turns into a poison to those closest to him — it is Clifford, moving gracefully in and out of the action, who is the glue between the spaces of the 30 years that separate the present from the distant past.

The young man, who has come back to his father's favorite gig, The Melody Club, to say goodbye before taking off for the West Coast, makes witty comments on the vicissitudes of his parents' lives: his mother's descent from a plucky, somewhat naive New York transplant from East Boston into a harvardian suffering from alcoholism and insanity; and his father's inability to connect with his wife, his son or any aspect of life save his music.

THEATER

The Gallery Players production of "Side Man" plays through Dec. 12, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 5 pm. Tickets are \$15, \$12 seniors and children under 12. The Gallery Players is located at 199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues. For reservations, call (718) 595-0547 or visit www.galleryplayers.com.



ability to connect with his wife, his son or any aspect of life save his music.

Winfield's performance has both good and not-so-good aspects. At times his detachment prevents "Side Man" from falling into the kind of melodrama that characterizes daytime television. On the other hand, there are moments when Winfield's ambivalence into the scene breaks into the heat of the drama at the exact point when it is most compelling.

At any rate, it is Blaylock, with his chiseled good nature, and Howard, whose passionate performance is the anchor of the dramatic action, who delivered the outstanding performances of the evening for this reviewer. Winfield seemed more like Thornton Wilder's disengaged stage manager for most of the play.

Other fine performances are turned in by Amy Smith as Patsy, the kind-



Dysfunctional trio: Erin Kate Howard as Terry and John Blaylock as Gene in The Gallery Players' production of Warren Leight's "Side Man." (At left) Jason Winfield as their son, Clifford.

hearted waitress who goes through husbands like a chain smoker goes through cigarettes, and Gene's three cronies: Al (D. H. Johnson), Ziggy (Patrick Toon) and most especially the one-eyed heroin addict Jonesy (Daniel Damiano).

Cully Long's set, central to the success of this show, allows the characters to move from past to present, from the Glimmer's dismal apartment (furnished in "Early American Divorce,"

the detritus of friends' failed marriages) to Jonesy's jail cell to The Melody Club. It also illustrates in minute detail — the cracked paint on the Glimmer's door, the leaky sink in the jail cell, the worn leatherette benches in the club — the sleazy existence of the Glimmers and their friends and at the same time has an impressionistic quality that is truly evocative.

Martin Miller's soundscapes work beautifully with Kate Ashton's lighting and the set to establish the mood and make the transitions as smooth as a jazz riff.

"Side Man," which won the 1999 Tony for best play and was nominated

for the Pulitzer Prize for drama, is the kind of play that easily strikes a different emotional chord in different people. Some will see Leight's work as a lament for the decline of jazz. (In one scene Gene and his friend watch Elvis Presley performing on the Ed Sullivan show and comment that he will be the one to give jazz its final death blow.)

Others will see the play as a depiction of a dysfunctional marriage and the way it affects a young boy growing up in a house where his father is mostly absent and the mother is all too present.

Still others will look at "Side Man" as a coming-of-age play about a young boy who, after years of taking care of an ailing mother and helping his father navigate through life, finally decides to make his own way. And they will all be correct — to some extent.

Like all good plays, "Side Man" has multiple layers, and fortunately, the Gallery Players have been sensitive to the ambiguity in the play and the ambivalence in the author. The result is theater as it should be — thoughtful, provocative and extremely moving.

pair of glasses to portray Malcolm Jamal-Warner. He even poked fun at himself when, once the scene with Mr. Jamal-Warner ended and he returned to his role as narrator, he said, "Ladies and gentlemen, please don't be fooled by the glasses. I'm not Malcolm Jamal-Warner!" Mr. Guttenberg's right wig was clearly not supposed to be taken seriously, as well. This is a comedy!

Mr. Pisarra's statement that, "Ultimately, you can't help but feel that this trio Googled 'Wilford Brimley' for inspiration, then forgot to research him (or anyone else) once the project got underway," is rubbish. Mr. Bulette, Mr. d'Aulaire and Mr. Klaitz visibly did their homework, as was abundantly clear throughout their show. It seems that Mr. Pisarra forgot to do his as a reviewer in taking the show a bit more seriously than it ought to have been taken.

If Mr. Pisarra has such an abundance of knowledge about Wilford Brimley from Mr. Brimley's "ubiquitous, curmudgeonly presence on the small screen via commercials for Quaker Oats and Liberty Mutual," then he should know that Mr. Brimley is actually in a commercial for Liberty Mutual, not Liberty Mutual.

—Bekka Payack, Greenpoint

Editor's Note: "Lack of talent" is a phrase taken out of context. In fact, Drew Pisarra wrote: "Lack of talent and daring isn't the problem here."

Defending 'Wilford Brimley'

To the editor:

I write to you today in response to Drew Pisarra's review of "Who is Wilford Brimley? The Musical!" ("Soggy Oats," GO Brooklyn, Nov. 20). It seems that Mr. Pisarra took the play a bit too literally.

As the person who worked at the ticket counter at the Brick Theatre throughout the run of the show, I had the experience of viewing the show several times and never once left the show asking myself why the question posed in the show's title had not been answered. In fact, it was bluntly answered at the end of every show, when the audience is called upon to ask the question out loud, to which the narrator replied, "Wilford Brimley is a hero!"

True, that may not have been the answer that Mr. Pisarra was looking for (he seemed to be looking for a much more literal answer), yet the show, after all, is billed as a comedy! Sure, the play chronicled Mr. Brimley's life with informative truths and truths, but never once was the play allowed to stick to the truth. Why add every aspect of his career, when the true aspects of his career mentioned in the play (moving from Salt Lake City, Utah to Los Angeles to be a blacksmith; his first acting roles and major starring roles; his turn



as the Quaker Oats spokesperson, and yes, even his stint as Liberty Medical spokesperson) provide plenty of "rich fodder" for the play!

The press release for the show even described it as "an irreverent farce that blends both the true and almost certainly untrue trials of grandfatherly character actor Wilford Brimley."

"Object of ridicule?" Please! I wholeheartedly disagree with Mr. Pisarra's statement that "the trio of performing collaborators (Jon Bulette, Nils d'Aulaire and Jay Klaitz) have opted to dream up their own particulars with the hope that seeing a fat old man dance, grimace and blubber will generate laughs aplenty." Perhaps Mr. Pisarra thinks that Mr. Bulette, Mr. d'Aulaire and Mr. Klaitz wrote, produced and directed this play to poke fun at a "fat old man," but I got the sense that the trio holds Mr. Brimley to a much higher esteem! His redemption song at the end of the show emphasizes the huge heart Mr. Brimley has. The narrator's obvious love for Mr. Brimley, the trio's dance at

the close of the show and even just the fact that they did write, produce and direct a show entirely about Mr. Brimley rather than them deciding to write a play about an actor just to make fun of him!

"Lack of talent?" I'm not sure what Mr. Pisarra views as talent, but Mr. Klaitz received his Master's in Fine Arts for acting from Harvard (another recent reviewer of the show, from nytheatre.com, wrote that Mr. Klaitz's performance was "letter-perfect") and has been in plays all over the world! Mr. d'Aulaire is a renowned musician (who masters a plethora of instruments) on the East Coast and Mr. Bulette is a comedian who has written for "The Onion" and performed with the Upright Citizens Brigade! I'm sure that with such credentials (to only name a few of them) this trio must have "talent!"

Mr. Pisarra writes, "Even further afield are the impersonations done by the supporting players. As the aforementioned Guttenberg, d'Aulaire does a right wig then considers his job done. As Malcolm Jamal-Warner, Bulette does even less: All he's got is a T-shirt bearing the name of the former cast member of 'The Cosby Show.'"

I believe that those costumes were part of the ideal! It's supposed to be funny that a lanky white man uses the T-shirt and a

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Crazy for Klezmer

Judy Bressler's 11-piece Jewish-folk band returns to Lincoln Center with holiday concert

By Kevin Filipski
 for The Brooklyn Papers

Usually rich in both spirit and history is traditional Jewish klezmer music. Its unique blend of jazz, folk and even classical idioms results in an exuberantly irresistible and completely contagious musical form.

The holidays are a particularly special time for performances of klezmer music, and the long-running Klezmer Conservatory Band is one of its foremost proponents. The 11-piece band's annual holiday concert at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall on the Upper West Side of Manhattan on Dec. 5 is part of several holiday programs presented by the New York Philharmonic throughout the month.

"We've done six or seven of them now, and it's usually sold out or close to it," says one of the group's founders, Borough Park native Judy Bressler. "I think Lincoln Center gives us a certain kind of audience, a broader spectrum of people who attend our concerts."

One constant for the group when performing live klezmer music — whether at a wedding, a bar mitzvah, a club, or a large concert hall like Avery Fisher — is how infectious it is to the audience.

"People get up and dance all the time — even at Lincoln Center," Bressler, 51, says with a laugh. "We always encourage people to take to the aisles. Normally, I even go out into the hall itself and lead dances during the concerts, but at Lincoln Center, I can't [because of the way the stage is set up]."

"But people always know what to do. It's a great sight at Avery Fisher Hall to see hundreds of people dancing in the aisles. When you give people the opportunity to do something they don't normally get to do, it's a lot of fun to watch."



Last dance: The Klezmer Conservatory Band's Dec. 3 concert at Avery Fisher Hall marks the final performance for co-founder and vocalist Judy Bressler (second row, far left). The Borough Park native is developing her new show, "Cabaret Jude."

That klezmer causes such reactions in its listeners isn't surprising because, after all, klezmer's roots are in instrumental dance music of the Jewish people from Eastern Europe.

"There are many traditional dances, and it's party music,

others were students at the New England Conservatory of Music.

"Our band leader, Hankus Netsky, was a member of the faculty," she explains, "and I was studying different kinds of music at the time, like jazz and world folk music. My main interest was Yiddish song, and several of us started having klezmer 'jam sessions': we'd hear old '78 records, and we'd try to reproduce and play the music."

"At first [the sessions were] informal. Then the idea came that we should do a concert. That first concert was very well-attended, and afterward, people came up to us and asked us to play weddings and other social events. So the band just took on a life of its own."

The band has performed all over the world, including many jazz and folk festivals. Bressler sees many similarities between these musical styles.

"We've played jazz festivals because there is a certain amount of improvisation in the klezmer tradition, as there is, of course, in jazz," she says. "And there's a fusion in the mixing of styles as well, which appeals to the jazz au-

dience. Jewish people have historically moved around so much that there's a lot of cross-pollination. You can view klezmer as Jewish folk and jazz music."

As much as she is looking forward to this annual holiday performance at Lincoln Center, it will also be bittersweet for Bressler: Dec. 5 is her last concert as a member of the Klezmer Conservatory Band.

"It's been a great pleasure to work with them for all these years, but I am looking forward to my new show, 'Cabaret Jude,'" she says, referring to her new performance piece that encompasses American and Yiddish songs, music, comedy, drama and dance, in which Bressler will be accompanied by a quartet.

"I will be concentrating on song repertoire rather than instrumental music, which we do now in the band," says Bressler.

But after nearly a quarter-century of performing with her colleagues in the Klezmer Conservatory Band, Bressler knows that she can never say never.

"They are all my dearest friends," she says. "I'm sure I will play with them again one day."

MUSIC

The Klezmer Conservatory Band performs at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall (located on the southwest corner of Broadway and West 59th Street in Manhattan) on Sunday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$55, \$45, and \$25. For more information, visit www.newyorkphilharmonic.org or call (212) 875-5656.

celebratory music played at weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs," Bressler explains. "During concerts I sing Yiddish folk songs, which was the common language in Eastern Europe. I introduce the songs to bridge the language gap."

"All of this music has a very universal appeal. The subject matter is universal; whether it's love songs, or lullabies, or drinking songs, these are all things that transcend the Jewish culture."

The Klezmer Conservatory Band was founded in 1980 while Bressler and several

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Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

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BOUDOIR BAR: presents "The Beauty of the Bump and Grind," \$10, 7:30 pm, 273 Smith St. (718) 424-8878.

NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "The Choir," an adaptation of the 1952 play. 7:30 pm, BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. Also, "Lost Objects" performed by Beng on a Can. \$20, \$40, \$60, 7 pm. Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4300.

OPENING: Open Ground, artist-run space in Williamsburg, presents a show, "Chance Encounters," 8 pm, 250 Grand St. (718) 701-3732.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Side Man," \$15, \$10 children under 12 and seniors, 8 pm, 197 14th St. (718) 395-0447.

MICRO MUSEUM: "Endemodermata: Bella Gorgeous at All Ages." Piece is performed in Spanish with translation. 8 pm, 125 Smith St. Reservations suggested. (718) 797-3116. Free.

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PERFORMANCE

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CHRISTMAS SALE: Annual event at Main Jewels, home furnishings, clothing and more. 10 am to 4:30 pm, 53 Grandview St. (718) 625-1161.

FLEA MARKET: at Sunset Park. 10 am to 4 pm, 6201 13th Ave. (718) 837-3400.

HOLIDAY CRAFTS FAIR: at PS 321. 11 am to 4 pm. Seventh Avenue and Second Street. (718) 350-9992.

TRUNK SALE: at Congregation B'nai Avraham of Brooklyn Heights. Hand-crafted jewelry, hand-painted silk scarves, neckties, shawls, dressy hats, handbags. Refreshments. 6:30 to 8:30 pm, 117 Remsen St. (718) 556-4840.

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BOOK DRIVE: at Old First Presbyterian Church. 11:30 am to 5 pm, 126 Seventh Ave. (718) 797-7828.

ACTOR WORKSHOP: Entertainment and Sacred Arts Ministries present "The Spirit of Christmas," an evening of music and song by saxophonist Vincent Herring. Also, entertainment includes a video documentary on the Brooklyn Museum, the silent film "Pier 60," 1928, featuring the waltz and polka lessons. Dance party starts Brooklyn's Post Laureate Ken Segelman as he kicks off the annual drive. Reading from "The Night Before Christmas" and "The Polar Express." Noon, 247 Seventh Ave. Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000. Free.

BLOOD DRIVE: at Old First Presbyterian Church. 11:30 am to 5 pm, 126 Seventh Ave. (718) 797-7828.

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BOOK SERIES: Kane Street Synagogue hosts a distinguished writer series about books exploring the culture of tradition and modernity in Jewish and Muslim communities of the Middle East. Today: "Walking Into the Future." 7:30 pm, 236 Kane St. (718) 875-1550. Free.

EXHIBIT: Williamsburg Art and Historical Center presents "Sensuous Abundance," an exploration of the mystique of the female form. 4:00 to 7:00 pm, 135 Broadway. (718) 686-7732. Free.

RECEPTION: Twenty sculptures by Florence Weintrub, incorporating notes and branches found on the ground in Prospect Park, will be on display 5 pm to 7 pm. Exhibit on display through Jan. 15, 2005. Gallery Gallery, 142 Court St. (718) 585-2749. Free.

RECEPTION: Spoke the Hub presents its exhibit of Chinese ink paintings by Kuokey Kwok. 6 pm to 8 pm, 748 Union St. (718) 406-3234. Free.

RECEPTION: Smack Mellon Gallery presents exhibit "Between Interconnectedness." 6 pm to 9 pm, 56 Grandview St. (718) 467-6711. Free.

READING: Who Pops, a new book store, which serves coffee, presents its first authors event. 7 pm, 1022 Cornelia St. (718) 960-2084. Free.

GROUP SHOW: Open Season gallery presents "Chorus Encounters," a group exhibition. Reception begins at 8 pm, 252 Grand St. between Driggs and Roading streets. (718) 701-3732.

DESIGN FOR LIVING: Author Charles Lockwood ("Bricks and Brownstone: The New York Townhouse 1783-1929") explains why Brooklyn has NYC's best brownstones, how Brooklyn families lived in their homes historically and how architectural styles distinguish one era's townhouses from another. 4 pm, Central Library's Auditorium, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2300. Free.

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TOWED...

Continued from page 1

poses a 5-percent refundable tax credit to film and television companies (on top of the 10-percent tax credit the same productions get from New York State) provided they spend 75-percent of their production costs in New York.

The expense of shooting on location in New York includes rentals of private property and transportation, accommodations, security and the fees to clear streets of people and cars.

"A lot of times when they move the cars they put them out, especially in this area, in some place that's illegal," said Newell. "We get a lot of people calling up to report their cars stolen, neighbors saying this car's been here a week, then we get there and the car's got tickets all over it."

So while the moving of cars creates a costly hassle for the production company, which must pay the city to have traffic enforcement tow them, they're not alone in their suffering.

"Tickets and tow fees can be disputed individually in court, said an officer at the 78th Precinct, but are not automatically lifted.

Phoebe Dunst, 60, who lives on Carroll Street and Eighth Avenue, said the parking issue, more than any other related to the filming, was the big problem.

"I don't mind not being able to go out my back door, I don't mind the lights in the sidewalk," she said, "but the parking is horrible."

She excitedly added that one morning she caught a glimpse of Spielberg, Cruise and 10-year-old actress Dakota Fanning from her back window.

Dolores Farkas, 48, who lives on Carroll Street, said, "For Steven Spielberg? Anything!" but added that she wished the parking problem could be mitigated.

"What upset me is that the mayor's office didn't release alternate side parking," she said. "The information on the permits wasn't clear at all."

Lena Kaminsky, 28, who moved to Park Slope just a year ago and kept her car from a previous job, said she just thought it was "a pain in the butt. I just wish they would provide an option of where you're supposed to park. I get tickets all the time anyway."

She surveyed her Toyota Camry and sighed.

"I'm taking this as a sign I should sell it."



Cones were placed beside cars parked along Garfield Place Monday morning, marking no-parking zone to be in effect that evening.

Picture does not tell story

To the editor:

I would like to respond to Jess Wisniewski's "City Planning OKs Watchtower towers" (The Brooklyn Papers, Nov. 20). I don't have much of an issue with what was reported in the article as I was taken aback at the image you ran to illustrate the nature of the Watchtower's proposed project.

As you have reported in several articles, there is growing

LETTER

opposition from the community to this project, and no support for it, other than the fear that the Watchtower might build an ugly six-story parking lot if the city and community don't capitulate to 90 percent of their plans.

The image that you ran is a woefully inaccurate representation of the proposed project. It represents a view with the least street frontage and the side of the project with the smallest buildings (the meeting hall and the shortest tower).

The three other towers of the project are not represented in the drawing.

The street profile on Bridge Street is half the length of the

views from either Front or York Streets.

To the casual reader, who might read only the headlines and look at this picture, your paper has grossly underrepresented the issues that the community is fighting so hard against.

I am not sure whether I am dismayed or incensed at the use of this image—dismayed that The Brooklyn Papers would misrepresent the elephant that this project really is; incensed to think that this might have been the only image that the Watchtower might have made available for publication, underlining the underhanded representations that they have made across the board, from claiming to have adopted the concerns of the community into their revisions (ha) to flat out blackmail (six-story parking garage).

—Chris Hansen, Vinegar Hill Editor's note: Indeed, when asked for a rendering of the revised plans, the Bridge Street view was the only one provided to The Brooklyn Papers for that edition.

The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society this week, after the City Council's land use committee approved their modified plan, made several modified street-view drawings available.

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3rd Avenue and 43rd Street

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Former top cop Kerik to protect whole nation

By Devin Barrett
Associated Press

When Bernard Kerik was New York's police commissioner, he helped turn Gotham from an urban war zone into one of the safest big cities in the world.

His expertise as a crime fighter and his oversight of the NYPD's heroic efforts during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks earned him international fame and a role as a special adviser to the Iraqi government, which drew on his help to establish a fledgling police force.

President George W. Bush, who on Thursday selected Kerik to replace Tom Ridge as secretary of the Department of

Homeland Security, will be counting on Kerik to maintain that reputation as the nation's chief anti-terrorism czar.

If Congress approves Kerik's nomination, he will be charged with defending the nation's borders from terrorist attacks like those that rocked New York on a sunny fall day more than three years ago.

It's a task for which Kerik, a lifelong lawman, should be well suited.

When former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani began searching in 2000 for someone to lead the NYPD, he selected Kerik, a fiercely loyal lieutenant who still spoke with the gruff and grumble of a street cop.

About a year after his ap-

pointment, Kerik found himself racing to the World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan and reports a plane had struck one of the towers. Soon afterward, as the second plane struck the south tower, sending a shower of rubble and burning debris toward him, Kerik found himself running for his life.

Despite the devastation around him, Kerik remained calm, yet sorrowful face of the NYPD, standing steadfast alongside Giuliani, who had become "America's mayor" because of his steady stewardship of the city during the crisis.

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RIVERA...

Continued from page 1
for the Park Slope cops — Rodriguez is still trying to cope with the loss of the man she was married to June.

Outside the stationhouse on Sixth Avenue at Bergen Street, where Rodriguez and Rivera first met, two tall white candles remained lit on the steps Tuesday. A photo of a young, smiling Rivera, who was called "The Monster" by his brothers in law, sat on a desk turned altar next to fresh bouquets of flowers.

Rivera was known for being a strong, focused, but affectionate officer who loved his job. True to form he was giving it his all on Saturday, Oct. 2, the day he fell from a rooftop chasing a suspect.

A burglar alarm had been set off at 200 Third St., a warehouse for construction materials. As usual, Rivera and his partner, Officer Nelson Fernandez, pursued a man they saw fleeing from the roof of the one-story building.

While Fernandez tried to block the suspected burglar at an exit point, Rivera ran across the slick roof, but misjudged a step and fell 18 feet, shattering both legs and ankles, and injuring his back. The suspect got away.

"We were both working on two hours' sleep," said Rodriguez, to help pay off a house they'd bought in Bushwick less than a month earlier. She took a leave of absence after Rivera's accident to care for her fiance.

Rivera was taken to Lutheran Medical Center, and in the subsequent weeks both legs operated on individually, as well as heel reconstruction. Recovering at home, he watched movies, like his favorite, Rodriguez said, the '80s teen comedy "Weird Science," and tinkered with his laptop as fixing computers was a favorite pastime.

He appeared to be doing well, so when a blood clot that had formed in his leg and

traveled to his lungs caused a stroke suddenly the day before Thanksgiving, it took everyone by surprise.

"It was a big shock," said Officer John McNamara. "Most guys thought he was on the way to recovery."

Officer Joseph Newell added that the entire precinct was affected when they received the phone call from Rodriguez that morning, and some officers left right away for the hospital.

"Usually Highway Patrol does the escort when they're taking the body to the morgue. We did the escort instead, and stood guard with the body all night until the next morning when they did the autopsy," he said.

Rodriguez said she thought they'd already been through the worst.

"He was in so much pain after one of the surgeries, his tears would come out," said McNamara. "But he was always optimistic. He was going to go back to work, you know."

"He loved his job so much — for me, it's my only job," she said.

"He was so gentle with these people. He used to treat them so nice, they were very complying, and he was very humane to them. You'd be lucky if you got arrested by him, he'll give you the candy bar, he'll get you the water, he'll get you the phone call."

Rivera had been at the Park Slope precinct for 12 years, his entire career, and in that time made 269 arrests. When Rodriguez joined five years ago, the two fell for each other.

"It was love at first sight," she said.

They tried to hide their relationship at work, but "it was so hard. They knew we were looking at each other," said Rodriguez.

And Rivera found ways of sneaking her rose bouquets and teddy bears, until

LITERARY...

Continued from page 1
Johnny Temple, who earlier this year published "Brooklyn Noir," an inspired and well-researched anthology of crime fiction with landscapes set throughout the borough.

"Marty has been interested in doing something on a larger scale, something to really draw attention to just how important the borough has been in the arts," said Jay Kaplan, director of programs and exhibitions for the Brooklyn Public Library and a member of the 16-member literary council. "Many of our writers are world-renowned and deeply appreciated, and yet somehow Brooklyn in the popular mind hasn't reestablished itself as the scene it should be."

Indeed, despite claiming Truman Capote, Arthur Miller and Norman Mailer as its own at one time or another, Brooklyn has remained in the shadows of Manhattan, where most of the larger publishing companies are located. Even the acclaim received by new generations of writers like Jonathan Lethem, Colson Whitehead and Jonathan Safran Foer has done little to make Brooklyn a household literary name.

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"Brooklyn writers can never run out of material because nowhere in America is home to as many characters as Brooklyn," Markowitz said in a prepared statement. "We're excited to be working with Brooklyn's vibrant literary community to come up with new ways to raise the profile of Brooklyn authors and to promote literacy."

Hopes for a literary renaissance began in 2003 when Markowitz hosted "Read Brooklyn!" on the steps of Borough Hall. There, more than a dozen authors read eight-minute excerpts from both fiction and non-fiction works.

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Temple, who founded Akashic Books in 1997 from his home in Fort Greene before shifting the business to Manhattan, said that after several writers from his publishing house had died at the second installment of the Brooklyn Bridge and that closes a lot of eyes off to our talents."

Lead organizer of the membership council, Peter Jonathan Galassi, editor-in-chief of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Peter Rothberg, associate publisher of The Nation; Mary Gannon, deputy editor of Poets & Writers Magazine; Patrick Henry Bass, books editor at Essence Magazine; and Danny Simmons, brother of rap mogul Russell Simmons, who helped create HBO's "Def Poetry Jam."

"Book publishing in general needs more public events," said Temple. "But in Brooklyn in particular, it's disappointing that the literary event in terms of public events is not more vibrant. We're hoping to change that."

Her 10-year-old son, Mike, who Rivera called his "partner in crime," is also having a rough time.

"He used to be his role model. He's very much into it. He knows, he knows. Right now he's going through physical stuff, upset stomach and sickness. He's 10, but he's 10 going on 20," said Rodriguez.

And Rivera's 6-year-old daughter, Amelinda, has a premonition of her surrogate father checking up on her.

As upset as she is, most of Rodriguez's grieving has been done with Rivera's family in East New York, where he grew up, and her own, who share the house they bought in Bushwick.

"He's like an angel, and this is his home. It's not like his personality. It's not like, 'OK' he's passed away, now he's a good guy." I would love people to know that there are good human beings out there, especially officers."

Sale of Indy bank possible

Associated Press

Speculation swept Wall Street Tuesday that Independence Community Bank Corp. might be for sale.

The Montague Street company, considered the last major community bank with a large footprint in the region, has often been seen as an attractive takeover target because of its extensive network of branches.

The consortium owned by Charles Hamann until 2001, and Alan Fishman since then, has been the only financial institution willing to venture into less densely populated reaches of western Brooklyn.

The names of possible suitors include Sovereign Bancorp Inc., North Fork Bancorp, Wachovia Corp. and M&T Bank Corp. Interest might even come from players based overseas, including Britain's HSBC Holdings PLC and the Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, whose Citicorp Financial Group Inc. unit recently acquired Charter One Financial Inc. in a \$10.5 billion deal.

of its employees already work. Locally, the bank's Independence Community Foundation has been a sponsor of everything from the arts to civic events and Independence Bank under the leadership of Charles Hamann until 2001, and Alan Fishman since then, has been the only financial institution willing to venture into less densely populated reaches of western Brooklyn.

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SALES...

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professional-quality cages made of 12-gauge wire, large enough for a Labrador, at \$80 apiece. Lower-end versions started at \$40.

Puma said he bought the high-end cages "thinking in the long term." Salomone defended the purchase, saying "These are stainless steel kennels; they're beautiful, they never rust. I know my metals; it's the one thing. Stainless steel cleans easier."

The bubble-filled backyard space had dozens of trash bags piled up in one corner of the cement, fenced-in lot, and a pile of bulk waste material covered with a blue tarp at another end, both of which Puma said are too costly to remove. He said he had already spent \$1,800 on carting debris. He expects the rest to cost \$600 to clear out.

The dogs just sniff it, pee on it and leave it alone," he said.

Another major expense claimed by Puma — food — is a lie, according to Bleier, who said the food was all donated. "Puma doesn't use the donated food," said Salomone, adding, referring to the seven dogs he keeps at his home. "We let Todd do his thing," he said.

SALES...

Continued from page 1
Johnny Temple, who earlier this year published "Brooklyn Noir," an inspired and well-researched anthology of crime fiction with landscapes set throughout the borough.

"Marty has been interested in doing something on a larger scale, something to really draw attention to just how important the borough has been in the arts," said Jay Kaplan, director of programs and exhibitions for the Brooklyn Public Library and a member of the 16-member literary council. "Many of our writers are world-renowned and deeply appreciated, and yet somehow Brooklyn in the popular mind hasn't reestablished itself as the scene it should be."

Indeed, despite claiming Truman Capote, Arthur Miller and Norman Mailer as its own at one time or another, Brooklyn has remained in the shadows of Manhattan, where most of the larger publishing companies are located. Even the acclaim received by new generations of writers like Jonathan Lethem, Colson Whitehead and Jonathan Safran Foer has done little to make Brooklyn a household literary name.

It's been said that the Russian writer Isaac Asimov learned to read English as a child in Brooklyn and that Richard Wright wrote "Native Son" while sitting in Fort Greene Park, incidentally a public space that Walt Whitman helped found.

Kaplan said that, among other expectations, members hope to include a book fair near Grand Army Plaza during next June's "Best of Brooklyn" festival. If successful, Markowitz would parlay the event into a stand-alone festival featuring booksellers and authors, both obscure and renowned, reading from their works.

"Brooklyn writers can never run out of material because nowhere in America is home to as many characters as Brooklyn," Markowitz said in a prepared statement. "We're excited to be working with Brooklyn's vibrant literary community to come up with new ways to raise the profile of Brooklyn authors and to promote literacy."

Hopes for a literary renaissance began in 2003 when Markowitz hosted "Read Brooklyn!" on the steps of Borough Hall. There, more than a dozen authors read eight-minute excerpts from both fiction and non-fiction works.

Besides boldface names like Daily News columnist Denis Hamill, lesser known writers like Timothy Sheard, author of "Some Cuts Never Heal," proved their Brooklyn chops at the lit-awakeness-raising event.

Sheard, who writes crime and mystery novels, said on Thursday that because most publishing houses and literary agents are situated across the river, some of Brooklyn's most talented writers tend to be ignored.

"Our reputation here does not measure up to our greatness, unfortunately," said Sheard, an epidemiologist at SUNY Downstate Medical Center who lives with his family in Flatbush. "We live under the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge and that closes a lot of eyes off to our talents."

Temple, who founded Akashic Books in 1997 from his home in Fort Greene before shifting the business to Manhattan, said that after several writers from his publishing house had died at the second installment of the Brooklyn Bridge and that closes a lot of eyes off to our talents."

Lead organizer of the membership council, Peter Jonathan Galassi, editor-in-chief of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Peter Rothberg, associate publisher of The Nation; Mary Gannon, deputy editor of Poets & Writers Magazine; Patrick Henry Bass, books editor at Essence Magazine; and Danny Simmons, brother of rap mogul Russell Simmons, who helped create HBO's "Def Poetry Jam."

"Book publishing in general needs more public events," said Temple. "But in Brooklyn in particular, it's disappointing that the literary event in terms of public events is not more vibrant. We're hoping to change that."

professional-quality cages made of 12-gauge wire, large enough for a Labrador, at \$80 apiece. Lower-end versions started at \$40.

Puma said he bought the high-end cages "thinking in the long term." Salomone defended the purchase, saying "These are stainless steel kennels; they're beautiful, they never rust. I know my metals; it's the one thing. Stainless steel cleans easier."

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REAL ESTATE

Continued from page 1
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